

Application No.: 10/822,200

Amendment and Response filed on October 25, 2006

Reply to Advisory Action of August 17, 2006, and to Office Action of May 25, 2006

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### **REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

#### **Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-28 have previously been cancelled, and claims 29-31, 33, and 40-49 have been cancelled herein. New claims 50-51 have been added herein.

#### **Discussion of the Amendments to the Claims**

The claims have been amended in an effort to advance prosecution and not in acquiescence of any rejection. Claim 32 has been rewritten in independent form, and new claims 50-51 have been added. Claims 29-31, 33, and 40-49 have been cancelled without prejudice herein. Moreover, claim 34 has been amended to replace the word "material" with the word --gel--. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments to the claims.

#### **Other Remarks**

Applicants appreciate the indication in the final Office Action that claims 35-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In an effort to advance prosecution and not in acquiescence of any rejection, new claims 50 and 51 are presented herein. New claim 50 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 35 presented in independent form. Moreover, new claim 51 corresponds to the subject matter of claim 36 rewritten to depend from claim 50.

Applicants also have amended claim 32 to present that claim in independent form. In this regard, Applicants maintain their position that it would be understood that the self-sealing

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material of claim 32 (as originally presented) and the self-sealing gel of claim 32 (as amended in the Amendment and Response to Office Action filed on July 25, 2006) may include a thermoplastic elastomer and/or fluoropolymer which is/are distinct from the ePTFE tubular structures recited therein without amendment to claim 32. In any event, claim 32 as amended herein recites that the self-sealing gel is interposed between the first and second ePTFE structures.

In view of the amendments to the claims, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter, including the subject matter of any cancelled independent or dependent claim which has been incorporated into the claims being presented herein, in a continuation application. In this regard, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's comment as set forth in the Advisory Action.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if she has any questions regarding this submission or, if in her opinion, a teleconference call would expedite prosecution of the subject application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if

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any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Respectfully submitted,



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